

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 04371 301227Z

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5694

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4371

USIA FOR IOP/IAA

E.O. 1152: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORTING: KISSINGER MISSION AND RHODESIAN  
SETTLEMENT

1. RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH STATEMENT FRIDAY NIGHT  
ANNOUNCING END OF WHITE MINORITY RULE MADE FRONT PAGE HEAD-  
LINES NEWS ALL NEWSPAPERS AND TOPPED RADIO AND TELEVISION  
NEWSCASTS IN S.A. SMITH STATEMENT WAS FULLY REPORTED, WITH  
ACCENT IN FOLLOWING ASPECTS: (1) ACCEPTANCE OF KISSINGER  
PROPOSALS; (2) BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT INSIDE TWO YEARS;  
PRECEDED BY INTERMEDIARY MULTIRACIAL RULE BY COUNCIL OF  
STATE; (3) SMITH'S EXPECTANCE OF END TO ECONOMIC SANCTION  
AND GUERRILLA INSURGENCY. OTHER FACTORS STRESSED IN S.A.  
PRESS WERE END OF SMITH'S POLITICAL CAREER AND ASSERTION THAT  
RSA DID NOT PRESSURE RHODESIA INTO ACCEPTING KISSINGER DEAL.  
SOME REPORTS NOTED THAT DISSATISFACTION OF BLACK RHODESIAN  
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PAGE 02     PRETOR 04371 301227Z

NATIONALIST LEADERS NKOMO AND MUZOREWA WITH THE TIME FRAME

FOR TRANSFER TO BLACK RULE.

2. NEWSPAPER HEADLINE TREATMENT: 'DAILY NEWS' (DURBAN) "SMITH FORCED TO HAND OVER." 'NATAL WITNESS' ( PIETERMARITZBERG) "SMITH SAYS YES. " NATAL MERCURY' (DURBAN) " SMITH SPELLS IT OUT." 'CAPE TIMES' (CAPE TOWN) " RHODESIAN ACCEPTS." 'RAND DAILY MAIL' ( JOHANNESBURG) " PRESS PLAN: RHODESIA SAYS MAJORITY RULE." "BEELD" ( JOHANNESBURG) " FAREWELL SMITH." 'THE CITIZEN' ( JOHANNESBURG) " UDI: IT'S ALL OVER." ' DIE TRANSVALER' ( JOHANNESBURG) " I'VE BEEN FORCED OUT--SMITH". 'THE WORLD' ( JOHANNESBURG) "IT'S BLACK RULE."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENTS LIMITED. ' THE STAR' ( JOHANNESBURG) EDITORIALIZED SEPTEMBER 24 THAT IF SMITH ANNOUNCES END OF UDI " IT MEANS THAT PEACEMAKERS KISSINGER AND VORSTER HAVE DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB... A SETTLEMENT WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO LASTING PEACE, STABILITY , PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY." EDITORIAL WARRANTS THAT " VITAL ELEMENT" IN RHODESIA'S FUTURE IS ROLE THE WHITES WILL PLAY, SAYING COUNTRY NEEDS WHITE " INITIATIVE, EXPERTISE AND PRODUCTIVITY." PAPER ALSO SAID BLACKS MUST " RESPOND RESPONSIVELY TO THE CHANGED SITUATION AND OVERCOME GROUP AND TRIBAL RIVALRIES TO WORK WITHIN A SOUND CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK."

4. THE " RAND DAILY MAIL" EDITORIALIZED SEPTEMBER 25 "RHODESIA HAS SUCCUMBED TO THE PRESSURES OF THE INEVITABLE AND THE LOGIC OF ITS OWN POLICY AND SITUATION." EDITORIAL SAID RHODESIA'S ECONOMY WAS CRUMBLING AND "RACIAL STRIFE FOCUSSED THE PASSIONS OF EVERYONE, BLACK AND WHITE. NOW RHODESIA HAS THE OPPORTUNITY AND PERHAPS DESIRE TO MAKE ITS ALTERNATIVE WORK." EDITORIAL PRAISED KISSINGER AND VORSTER AND SAID VORSTER ESPECIALLY MUST HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSUADING SMITH OF NEED FOR REALISM. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES " THE SETTLEMENT IS, ON A QUICK EVALUATION, FAIR AND HOPEFUL. IT WILL HAVE A CHANGE OF WORKING IF MEN OF GOODWILL GIVE IT THAT CHANCE. IT CAN EASILY BE WRECKED BY AFRICAN FUEDS, WHITE ANXIETIES OR PUGNACIOUSNESS OF ANY FRONT. LIKE MOST OF SOUTH AFRICA THIS MORNING WE PRAY FOR SUCCESS."

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PAGE 03     PRETOR 04371 301227Z

5. CAPE TIMES EDITORIALIZED SEPTEMBER 25 " IT'S PREFERABLE TO CAPITULATE TO YOUR FRIENDS THAN YOUR ENEMIES. THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT COMFORT WHITE RHODESIANS CAN GAIN FROM THE SMITH BROADCAST LAST NIGHT. UNDER STRONG WHITE AND S.A. INFLUENCE, UDI IS FINALLY RENOUNCED. SANCTIONS ARE TO BE LIFTED AND GUERRILLA WAS IS TO CEASE, ASSUMING THE FURTHER STAGES IN THE KISSINGER PEACE PLAN MAKE TO FRUITION. ESSENTIALLY THE SCHEME IS TO

SAVE RHODESIA FOR THE WEST AND TO CHECK THE SOVIET LED  
PENETRATION OF THE SUBCONTINENT. TO MANY, THE PROBLEMS  
AHEAD WILL LOOK HIDEOUS AND THE UNCERTAINTIES LEGION  
BUT NOTHING LOOKED AS BAD AS RHODESIA'S PLIGHT BEFORE  
THE KISSINGER INITIATIVE. MR. SMITH HAS FINALLY TAKEN  
THE PLUNGE IN A DIGNIFIED WAY AND THE HOPES AND PRAYERS  
OF SOUTH AFRICANS WILL BE WITH RHODESIANS OF ALL COLORS.  
AS THEY ENTER THE ERA OF MAJORITY RULE."

CONSERVATIVE JOHANNESBURG PAPER " THE CITIZEN" EDITORIALIZED  
SEPTEMBER 25 " RHODESIA HAS CAPITULATED NOT TO THE DEMANDS  
OF SOUTHAFRICA AND THE USA AS SOME RHODESIANS WOULD HAVE  
IT, BUT TO THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION... SO WE SAY TO  
RHODESIANS: WE HAVE ADMIRERD YOUR COURAGE. WE HAVE BEEN  
MOVED BY YOUR BRAVERY. BUT WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT  
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN YOUR INTERESTS OR THOSE OF THE  
SUBCONTINENT TO CARRY ON THE BATTLE. RSA WILL ANXIOUSLY  
WAIT WHAT HAPPENS NOW. WE MAY NOW HAVE MORE TIME  
IN WHICH TO DEAL WITH OUR OWN PROBLEMS, AND THEY ARE MANY,  
BUT FORTUNATELY THE S.A.GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE THAT  
IN THE LAST RESULT IT IS WHAT WE DO IN S.A. WHICH WILL  
DETERMINE OUR FUTURE."  
HUGHES

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